Besides, occurrences of Nickel have been reported from the States of Bihar, Karnataka, Kerala, Rajasthan, Manipur and Nagaland. Nickel areas in Sukinda Valley:—

(i) Kansa Sector;

(ii) Kumardah-Saruabil-Sukerangi Sector;

(iii) Kaliapani Sector;

(iv) Tisco Sector.

At present there is no proposal to set up a Nickel extraction plant in the Sukinda Valley. However, the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has developed a process to extract Nickel metal from Chromite overburden accumulated as waste after extraction of Chromite ore. In Sukinda Valley a Pilot Plant with the capacity to treat up to 10 tones of Chrome overburden per day is being set up at the Regional Research Laboratory at bhubaneswar at a capital cost of Rs.10 crore following signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Hindustan Zinc Limited and CSIR. The techno-economic viability of Nickel extraction from the Chromite overburden waste in Sukinda valley can be assessed after operation of the Pilot Plant for two years when sufficient data has been generated.

Mishra Committee Report on Coal

258. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of State for MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Committee, headed by Shri R.N. Mishra was set up, which has given complete report, with the recommendations;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how many recommendations have been accepted by Government and how many have been implemented by the various Coal companies;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (PROF. RITA VERMA):(a) to (c) Three Committees were set up by the erstwhile Ministry of Coal under the Chairmanship of Shri R.N. Mishra, a senior executive of Coal India Limited (CIL). The information about these three Committee is given below:—

(i) The Committee which was set up on 27.7.92 to investigate into the stock shortages in Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL) during the period from 1986-87 to 1992-93 submitted its report on 24.12.93 to the Ministry of Coal. On 22.4.94 acceptance of the Ministry of Coal in regard to the major recommendations in the report was conveyed to CIL.

(ii) The Committee which was set up on 7.10.94 to investigate into the low despatch of coal in Central Coalfields Limited (CCL) in 1994 submitted its report on 5.1.96 to the Ministry of Coal. On 3.6.96 acceptance of the Ministry of Coal in regard to the major recommendations in the report was conveyed to CIL.

(iii) the Committee which was set up on 19.5.93 to investigate into the stock shortages in Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL) during the period 1992-93 submitted its report on 31.1.97 to the Ministry of Coal. On 2.1.98 acceptance of the Ministry of Coal in regard to the major recommendations in the report was conveyed to CIL.

The recommendations of these Committees were of two following categories:—

(i) Initiation of disciplinary proceedings against individual coal executives.

(ii) Recommendations regarding systems improvement in order to eliminate stock shortages and over-reporting of production.

The details of action taken as on 1.11.99 in respect of initiation of disciplinary proceedings against individual coal executives are given in enclosed statement-I information received from CIL. The details of action taken as on 1.11.99 in regard to the recommendations regarding systems improvement on the basis of information received from CIL are given in enclosed Statement-II

Statement-I

Details of action taken as on 1.11.99 in respect of initiation of disciplinary proceedings against coal executives on the basis of the recommendations of the R. N. Mishra Committee.

	R N Mishra Committee related to BCCL	R N Mishra Committee related to CCL	R N Mishra Committee related to ECL
Number of cases in which the coal executives expired/retired before initiation of disciplinary proceedings.	14	33	19
Number of cases in which no irregularity warranting disciplinary proceedings could be found.	-	30	-
Number of cases in which disciplinary proceedings were dropped after issue of chargesheets.	28	2	80
Number of cases in which Penalties were imposed on conclusion of disciplinary proceedings.	94	100	58
Number of cases in which Chargesheeted executives were exonerated on conclusion of disciplinary proceedings.	122	18	19

	R N Mishra Committee related to BCCL	R N Mishra Committee related to CCL	R N Mishra Committee related to ECL
Number of cases in which disciplinary cases are still pending.	2	61	107
Total Number of cases taken up for scrutiny on the basis of the recommendations of the Committee.	**260**	**244**	**283**

Statement-II

Details of action taken as on 1.11.99 in regard to the recommendations regarding systems improvement

Recommendation No.1-Separation of functions of Manager and Agent

The functions of Mine Manager and Agent should be clearly demarcated so as to remove the overlap. The production of coal should be the primary responsibility of the Manager while the Agent should be the custodian of the stock and responsible for the despatches of the stock.

Status as on 1.11.99

After implementing the recommendation in a few Areas, CIL found that total demarcation of functions of managers and Agents is not feasible as Directorate General of Mines Safety, Dhanbad objected to such demarcation on the ground that any loading place/ siding is within the leasehold of a particular mine as per the Coal Mines Regulations, 1957 and the Manager is fully responsible for the acts of commission and omission at the siding along with the mine since the siding is a part of the mine as per definition of "Mine" under the Mines Act, 1952 and the Manager cannot be absolved of the above responsibility.

Recommendation No.2-Optimum stock level

The stock of coal should be restricted to maximum of one month's production, preferably by augmenting despatches failing which by regulating the production. As an alternative, each colliery must plan for a day when its stock level should be zero. In exceptional cases where stock cannot be zero, old stock must be disposed of and fresh coal must be stocked separately. In case a particular heap cannot be so disposed of the heap must be subjected to a through scrutiny for quality and quantity by CIL measurement team to determine the exact quantity and quality of the coal.

Status as on 1.11.99

The level of coal stock is being controlled by restricting production, wherever necessary. The aggregate of coal stock in CIL as a whole as on 31.10.99 is equivalent to 0.77 month's against 0.94 month's on 31.10.98.

Recommendation No.3-System of reporting production

In situ shales/stones are considered for reducing the dumper factor whereas in the actual despatches some of these stones get mixed up and are despatched to the consumers. The differential quantity of coal is, however, not available with the colliery. This has led to under-reporting of production. A dual system of reporting production should be followed.

Status as on 1.11.99

In the revised guidelines under formulation in CIL, this aspect is being taken care of.

Recommendation No.4-Computerisation of colleiry operations

There should be computerisation of colleiry operations so as to correlate various factors of cost and production.

Status as on 1.11.99

This is under implementation in CIL.

Recommendation No.5-Disciplinary action on stock shortages

All Line Managers should be made responsible for shortages. Power should be delegated to the CMDs to suspend and impose all penalties on all non-Board level executives working under them other than compulsory retirement, removal and dismissal. CMDs should

also have powers to place any executive under suspension upto 3 months, concurrence of CIL Board being necessary for longer periods.

Status as on 1.11.99

This is under implementation in CIL.

Recommendation No.6-Stacking of Coal

No cognizance of coal production to be taken until it reaches the predetermined stacking ground.

Status as on 1.11.99

This is being followed by CIL

Recommendation No. 7-Despatch of Slow Moving Stocks

There are certain stocks which are of lesser quality. A policy must exist which allows flexibility in pricing of coal.

Status as on 1.11.99

The subsidiary companies of CIL have the powers to sale the coal in the stock as per the actual quality.

Recommendation No.8-Weighbridge / Fencing

Adequate fencing may be provided for each stocking area in a colliery. A crash programme should be taken up to install road weighbridges in each colliery.

Status as on 1.11.99

Work has been completed in most of the CIL subsidiaries in respect of installation of road weighbridges. Fencing is not a feasible proposition in view of large scattered stocking areas requiring very heavy initial investment as well as recurring expenditure.

Recommendation No.9-Calibration of dumper / Tubs

Fixation of dumper factor and tub factor should be based on the carrying capacity and not based on average quantity of coal carried by them during the month.

Status as on 1.11.99

In the revised guidelines under formulation by CIL, this aspect is being taken care of.